

Hauwa Jibrie (not real name), a 24-year-old woman from Gavva, fled with her parents and three siblings to the caves in the Mandara mountains when Boko Haram fighters attacked the village in October 2014. "We moved, every day we kept moving and moving, further and further into the hills. Boko Haram fighters were chasing us further and further." They hid with many other villagers in caves and tried to reach the Cameroonian border but were captured by Boko Haram."<sup>230</sup>

Hauwa and her sister Esther (not real name) said that they were in a group of approximately 100 people when they were captured. Boko Haram fighters separated out 14 men, of whom four were taken into captivity. The remaining eight men were beheaded, including Hauwa and Esther's brother. "When they were executing them, I turned my face but I was hearing them, their voices and crying. My mother was watching." Their mother died later that day, according to her daughters of high blood pressure and shock.

Hauwa, Esther and the other women were taken to Ngoshe and from there they were detained in a house in Gwoza. Hauwa said: "when I was there, when I was crying, they [Boko Haram fighters] would come and beat me. So I kept quiet." After 20 days Hauwa and Esther managed to escape from the house.

Blessing (not real name), a 37-year-old farmer and mother of four from Gavva, also told Amnesty International she had been abducted by Boko Haram fighters. Blessing said that when the fighters attacked Gavva on 17 September 2014, she managed to escape the town and hid in the mountains for two weeks. On 1 October, however, she returned to the village to bring food to her sick mother. At that time, she said, eight Boko Haram fighters stopped her and took her to the neighbouring village of Pulka. She was detained there in a house with approximately 30 other women and told to convert to Islam. After two weeks in captivity, Blessing managed to escape from the house at night, when there were no guards, and escaped to Cameroon.<sup>231</sup>

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<sup>230</sup> Amnesty International interviews, February 2015.

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